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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/786,732

02/25/2004

James E. Haley

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21788

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02/27/2009

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EXAMINER

CARTAGENA, MELVIN A

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3754

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

02/27/2009

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

<i>Office Action Summary</i>	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/786,732	HALEY, JAMES E.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	MELVIN A. CARTAGENA	3754	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 December 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

1. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on December 04, 2008 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-3, 5-7, 10-12 and 18-24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by US 5,799,836 to Lee.

Lee shows a bottle stopper as seen in Fig. 6, having a cylindrical body formed of a resilient material, see column 2, lines 50-51, a lower cylindrical part 11 to be inserted in the opening of a bottle 40, a second upper substantially cylindrical part extending above the container opening, an air passage 16, a pour opening composed of a plurality of uniformly spaced apertures of the strainer 30 that extend across substantially an entire cross section of cylindrical body and substantially encircle the air passage, a visual indicator provided by the angle of the spout 15, see column 2, lines 63-66, the slope of the spout is about 50 degrees and the tip of the spout is spaced about 180 degrees from the air passageway and extends about 0.1

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inches. The device of Lee is used to pour product from a container and performs the method step of visually determining the proper orientation of the spout and tilting the container in the proper orientation to pour, as claimed in the method claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

4. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

5. Claim 4 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,799,836 to Lee in view of US 4,078,700 to Hidding.

Lee shows all claimed features as discussed above but is silent about having an anti-drip spout. Hidding shows a spout with an anti-drip element 56 as seen in Fig. 1. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of Lee to include an anti-drip spout as taught by Hidding to protect the container contents against spillage.

6. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,799,836 to Lee in view of US 4,128,189 to Baxter.

Lee shows all claimed features as discussed above except for the visual indicator being an indentation or color marking. Baxter shows a spout with protuberance 66 separated 180 degrees from the air passage 60, an indentation 78 and the use or covers of different colors, see column 3, lines 50-53. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to use color to identify the pour spout in combination with an indentation

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and protuberance for and anti-drip spout feature indicating the proper pour orientation in the device of Lee as taught by Baxter in order to fit into a harmonious color style with the remainder of the container including the label on the container.

7. Claims 13-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US 5,799,836 to Lee in view of US 5,228,603 to Pham et al.

Lee shows all claimed features as discussed above except for the filter material being of the same material as the spout and a flexible strand at about 120 degrees from the spout. Pham show a spout with a filter material 76 made of the same material as the spout and a flexible strand 312 at about 120 degrees from the spout 305. It would have been obvious to a person with ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to modify the device of the Lee to include a filter made of the same material as the spout and a stand as taught by Pham to facilitate manufacture of the spout by making the spout and the filter in one molding process and having a strand to prevent misplacing the cap.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1-24 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

The rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112 has been withdrawn in view of applicant's arguments. Furthermore, it has been held that the recitation that an element is "adapted to" perform a function is not a positive limitation but only requires the ability to so perform. It does not constitute a limitation in any patentable sense. *In re Hutchinson*, 69 USPQ 138. In this respect the cap is not positively recited.

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Conclusion

9. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Melvin Cartagena whose telephone number is (571)272-4924. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:30AM to 7:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kevin P. Shaver can be reached on (571) 272-4720. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/M. A. C./
Examiner, Art Unit 3754

/Kevin P. Shaver/
Supervisory Patent Examiner, Art Unit 3754